
Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

1. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) "which form the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action." The applicant believes that no response is required for this paragraph.
2. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 31 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907)." The applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 17-18 depend on claim 1 and claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 31 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

3. The Examiner rejected claims 2, 8, 20 and 26 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Haggard (US 2,870,928)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Haggard (US 2,870,928) a is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claims 2 and 8 depend on claim 1 and claims 20 and 26 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

4. The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 23 "under 36 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view Banks (GB 2,169,248)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Haggard (US 2,870,928) is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since

claim 5 depends on claim 1 and claim 23 depends on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

5. The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 27 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of van der Lely (US 4,362,340)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of van der Lely (US 4,362,340) is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 9 depends on claim 1 and claim 27 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

6. The Examiner rejected claims 12, 14, 30 and 32 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Bombardier (US 3,149,738)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base

panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Bombardier (US 3,149,738) is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claims 12 and 14 depend on claim 1 and claims 30 and 32 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

7. The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 33 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Good (US 4,890,560)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) and further in view of Good (US 4,890,560) is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 15 depends on claim 1 and claim 33 depends on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

8. The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 34 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention fully covers the bottom of the frame and is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant believes that the cited references, Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bumgarner (US 5,809,907) is not obvious as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 16 depends on claim 1 and claim 34 depends on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

Conclusion

9. The Examiner indicated that the "Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection." The applicant appreciates the Examiner's review and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejected claims based on the above responses.

10. The Examiner indicated that the "applicant's argument of the definition of "skid", the claim does not deal with the verb "to skid" but rather the noun "a skid." The definition of the noun "skid" according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary 10th edition is a low platform mounted (as on wheels) on which material is set for handling

and moving.” The Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s view and respectfully requests consideration of the noun definition from the American Heritage, 2nd Addition (1976) which states “a plank, log, or timber, usually one of a pair, used as a support or as a track for sliding or rolling heavy objects.” Based on this definition and from the patent specification, the Applicant believes that a skid does not require wheels for sliding heavy objects across a surface.

11. The Examiner indicated that the “Applicant’s amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office Action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.” The applicant appreciates the Examiner’s final rejection and respectfully requests consideration by accepting the Request for Continued Examination and Fee of this application.

12. The Examiner provided information concerning the shortened statutory period for this final office action. The Applicant appreciates Examiner’s view and requests consideration by accepting the above responses and the Request for Continued Examination and Fee within the shortened statutory period.

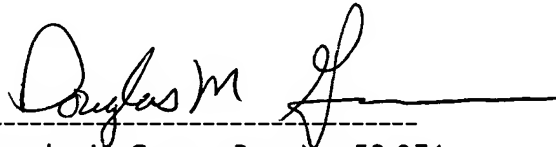
13. The Examiner provided information concerning communication on this case. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s willingness to discuss this case but believes that no specific response to this paragraph is required.

14. The Examiner provided information concerning the status of the application of this case in the PAIR system. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's information, but believes that no specific response to this paragraph is required.

The Applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended as previously described. In view of the foregoing, and in summary, applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office Action have been addressed. Applicant believes that the presently presented claims (claims 1-34) are patentable over the prior art.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted this 21 day of February, 2006.



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Index

Certificate of Mailing.....1

Cover Letter.....2

Fee Calculation Sheet.....3

Amendment and Response to Final Office Action4

Amendments to Claims.....5

Remarks/Arguments.....9

Conclusion.....13